

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02 /127 W
----- 017648

R 151544Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8777

INFO USEC BRUSSELS 264

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS TUNIS 2220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TS

SUBJ: US TRADE ACT OF 1974 - GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

REFS: STATE 66492 AND 55671

1. AMBASSADOR OFFICIALLY INFORMED MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY LASRAM ON APR 11 OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION INCLUDE TUNISIA AMONG LDC'S ELIGIBLE TO BENEFIT FROM US GSP AND DISCUSSED BASIS FOR DETERMINATION OF TUNISIAN ELIGIBILITY IN ACCORDANCE STATE 55671. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT AMONG FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WERE FACT THAT TUNISIA IS NOT MEMBER OF OPEC OR OTHER GROUP TENDING TO LIMIT SUPPLY OR RAISE PRICES OF WORLD RAW MATERIALS AND HAS TAKEN DEFINITE DECISION TO ELIMINATE REVERSE PREFERENCES IN ITS NEXT AGREEMENTS WITH COMMON MARKET. HE ALSO REFERRED TO DESIRE EXPRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA TO UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TABOR THAT TUNISIA BE INCLUDED AMONG COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR US GSP (TUNIS 1045).

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2. LASRAM EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT DECISION AND FELT

THAT THIS WOULD FIT IN EXTREMELY WELL WITH PRESENT
TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN TO DEVELOP EXPORT INDUSTRIES DRAWING ON
FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ORDER TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES IN TUNISIA. FACTS THAT US GSP PERMITS
TUNISIAN VALUE-ADDED ON MANUFACTURED GOODS TO BE AS LOW
AS 35 PER CENT AND THAT DESIGNATED COMMODITIES IMPORTED
IN US WILL HAVE ZERO TARIFF WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT,
ACCORDING TO LASRAM, IN HELPING TUNISIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES TO FURTHER THEIR INDUSTRIAL PLANS. LASRAM SAID
THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF US ACTION, HIS OFFICE WOULD
ISSUED SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE ON SUBJECT. ACCORDINGLY,
SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARED IN BOTH FRENCH AND ARABIC
PAPERS APR 13.

3. EMBOFSS ALREADY INFORMED GOT ALONG LINES OF
REFTELS BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON LASRAM AND HAD EN-
COUNTERED VERY FAVORABLE TUNISIAN RESPONSE. INFORMAL
ASSURANCE THAT BY JAN 1, 1976, NEW AGREEMENTS WITH EC
WOULD BE CONCLUDED WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE REVERSE PRE-
FERENCES WAS REPORTED BY TUNIS 2026.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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